

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Notice of Partial Reconsideration of the
Draft Revised Clean Air Act Permit Program Permit for

Illinois Power Generating Company
Newton Energy Center

On February 25, 2015, the Illinois EPA initiated a public comment period for the planned Significant Modification of the Clean Air Act Permit Program (CAAPP) permit for the Newton Energy Center, a coal-fired power plant operated by Illinois Power Generating Company at 6725 North 500th Street near Newton in Jasper County. As discussed in the Statement of Basis prepared for this comment period, the Draft Revised CAAPP permit reflected changes arising from the negotiated resolution of the appeal of the initial CAAPP permit issued for this power plant (Case No. PCB 06-068).

A public inquiry to the Illinois EPA requested certain test results for particulate matter (PM) emissions and opacity of the two coal-fired boilers at this plant that was cited in the Statement of Basis. In responding to the request, permitting staff determined that the reference to the test data in the Statement of Basis was misplaced, as no such data from the plant was available to support the selection of a 20 percent opacity value for purposes of periodic monitoring of the PM emissions of the coal-fired boilers. This error in the Statement of Basis was inadvertent. The document had been developed from an earlier Statement of Basis for another coal-fired power plant for which available test data had been relied upon in a similar context. The fact that such test data is not yet available for the Newton Energy Center was overlooked.

Despite the absence of such test data for the Newton Energy Center, the Illinois EPA continues to believe that the selected opacity value for periodic monitoring that is identified in the affected permit conditions is appropriate. However, because the Statement of Basis does not elaborate upon the grounds for the selected opacity value independent of the test data, it could be argued that the Illinois EPA did not provide for meaningful public comment on this matter. For this reason, the Illinois EPA plans to reconsider the basis for the selected opacity value, in consultation with the applicant, before a final permit decision is made.

The specific portion of the Draft Revised CAAPP permit addressed by this reconsideration is found at Condition 7.1.9(c)(ii)(B) in the revised draft permit, and the relevant discussion regarding prior test data or recent results of testing from the accompanying Statement of Basis that is likewise being addressed is found at the third paragraph of page 22, the second paragraph of page 45 and the fourth paragraph of page 52. Once the reconsideration is completed and any

resulting revision(s) to the permit or the supporting Statement of Basis are made, the matter will be afforded notice and opportunity for comment in accordance with 35 IAC 252.201.

Any interested persons should further be advised that, excluding the issue of the selected opacity value discussed above, the public comment period for the Draft Revised CAAPP permit will proceed as originally noticed. The public comment period will close on Friday, March 27, 2015, unless a written request for extension is made to the Illinois EPA prior to expiration of the comment period and good cause exists for the extension.

Any inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to Brad Frost, Division of Air Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, PO. Box 19506, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9506, phone 217/782-7027, TDD phone number 217/782-9143.